

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed April 23, 2002. In the Office Action, claims 1-72 were cited as being subject to a restriction requirement. Reexamination and reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested in view of the amendments made herein and the following remarks.

Claims 53-57 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-52 and 58-72 remain at issue in the patent application. Of those remaining at issue, claims 1, 13, 27, 32, 41, 58, and 64 are independent claims. Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this response.

I) RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, claims 1-52 were restricted to Group I, and claims 53-72 were restricted to Group II. Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement with respect to claims 58-72.

The Office Action indicated that Group I claims were drawn to a method of processing for a semiconductor device, classified in class 438, subclass 100+.

The Office Action indicated that Group II claims, claims 53-72 were drawn to a semiconductor device, classified in class 257, subclass 288. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the classification of claims 58-72.

Applicant hereby elects to go forward with Group I claims drawn to a method of processing for a semiconductor device, classified in class 438, subclass 100+.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 58-72 should be included with Group I claims in that they are drawn to a system for manufacturing a semiconductor device which is more closely

related to "methods of processing a semiconductor device" of Group I claims.

Claims 53-57 are drawn to a semiconductor device as indicated by their preambles and presumptively are properly classified in class 438, subclass 100+. However, claims 58-72 are not drawn to a semiconductor device. Claims 58-72 as indicated by their preambles are drawn to a "system for manufacturing a semiconductor device". The elements of claims 58-72 are more related to semiconductor processing or "methods of processing a semiconductor device" of Group I claims.

Applicant respectfully requests the inclusion of claims 58-72 in Group I claim classification. Alternately, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the classification of claims 58-72 as being drawn to a semiconductor device.

Applicant has cancelled claims 53-57 in Group II without prejudice in order to comply with the restriction requirement.

Claims 1-52 in Group I and claims 58-72 from Group II remain pending in the application.

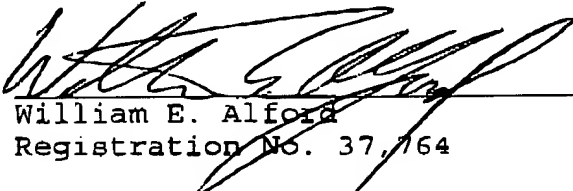
CONCLUSION

Reconsideration of the restriction requirement and a first examination as to the merits of the pending claims is respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel by telephone at (714) 557-3800 to expedite the prosecution of this case should there be any unresolved matters remaining. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted
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Dated: May 8, 2002


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

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I hereby certify that this
correspondence is being transmitted
via facsimile under 37 CFR § 1.8 to
703-308-7382 on: May 8, 2002


Susan McFarlane
Date 5/8/02

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FEB 25 2003

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